

No. 3276

Def. Doc. # 2028

EXHIBIT # 3276

FROM: FOREIGN MINISTER HIROTA
TO: AMBASSADOR KAWAGOE (CHINA)
DISPATCHED: August 7, 1937

SUBJECT: Commencement of Truce Negotiations between Japan
and China

No. CODE (MACHINE)
(STRICTLY SECRET. URGENT. EXCLUSIVE CODE FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION.
DEPARTMENTAL SECRET.)

1. As a result of active consultations among the War, Navy and Foreign Ministries on the means of settling the present situation, it is now hoped that an agreement will be reached along the lines set forth in a separate message which is expected to be adopted officially as a government policy in the course of a day or two.

2. Meanwhile, from various consideration, as it is highly desirable that the form should be kept that the initiative of the truce negotiations came from the Chinese, arrangements have been made to dispatch FUNAZU at once, as per my telegram by exclusive code for chiefs of mission to Shanghai dated the 4th, (reinforcements of three divisions to be dispatched from Japan are expected to finish their concentration by Aug. 20th, and we think it very important that an agreement of some sort should be reached before that date) who is to see Kao Tsung-wu in greatest secrecy and inspire into Kao his personal view that there is a prospect of peaceful settlement and persuade him to approach you with a proposal of truce. It would be most unwelcome that Kao, or the like,

should respond by an indefinite proposal as a mere feeler, as it is imperative that, if the Chinese make a peace proposal at all, it should be founded upon a certain amount of determination on their part. It seems to me that Kao's proposal to you must be made with the full understanding of Chiang Kai-shok to a certain extent. (Funazu is informed of this last point.)

3. In case Kao makes a proposal for truce negotiations in response to the above arrangement, providing it is made with the understanding of Chiang, (a) if our government had already decided on the policy stated in Paragraph 1 and telegraphed instructions to you accordingly, you may proceed with preliminary conferences with Kao along the lines of the above policy; (b) or, if you had not received by that time a telegraph to the effect that the government had decided on its policy along the lines above stated, you will ask for instructions immediately, reporting at the same time the details of Kao's proposal.

4. Pending the decision by the government on its policy, it is necessary from various considerations that the foregoing should be kept in strictest secrecy (even from military or naval attaches) and that utmost care should be taken not to bring about opposition from outsiders. Therefore, it is my view that personal contact between you and Funazu had better be avoided for the time being.

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5. Further, the government is willing, parallel with the above truce negotiations, or pursuant thereto, to open parleys for the adjustment of diplomatic relations from a standpoint quite free from past circumstances, and active consultations among quarters concerned are progressing. This, too, is expected to be decided upon in two or three days.

Only a very limited number of persons even at the top of the army and navy are informed of this matter, and we are trying to arrive at a decision first and then to force it through. In the meantime, the foregoing is strictly for your personal information.

TRANSMITTED TO: Shanghai, together with separate telegram.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section,
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document
hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 3 pages and entitled
"Telegram from Hirota, Foreign Minister, to Kawagoe,
Ambassador to China, despatched on August 7, 1937." is an
exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese
Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 5th day of February, 1947.

/s/ K. HAYASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ K. URABE